

Montauk Wastewater
Feasibility Analysis & Land Swap
Update

MCAC 4/4/22

Purpose

- To receive community support for a land swap with Suffolk County Parks for siting of a potential wastewater treatment facility to service Montauk priority areas
 - The land swap is needed to complete the feasibility analysis and map & plan

Problem and Solution

- Existing cesspools and septic systems do not treat wastewater for nutrients or bacteria
- Town and County incentivizing residential and commercial upgrades to innovative/alternative on-site septic systems to improve water quality
- Wastewater flow and property size constraints in densely populated areas of Montauk make on-site treatment options limited
- Centralized wastewater treatment proposed solution for; downtown, dock area, LIRR/industrial road, and ditch plains

Benefits of Sewage Treatment

- Environmental – Water Quality:
 - Surface waters surrounding Montauk, including Fort Pond, Fort Pond Bay, and Lake Montauk are identified as partially impaired waterbodies by NYSDEC
 - Reduce Impacts from pathogens, excessive nutrient loading, and algal blooms from on-site wastewater treatment systems to ground and surface waters
 - All directly correlated to insufficient, failing sanitary infrastructure within densely developed tributary areas to these waterbodies
- Public Health and Safety:
 - Centralized wastewater treatment is held to a higher standard for effluent, is more efficient, and can remove more contaminants than on-site systems
 - Protection of groundwater aquifer and drinking water sources
- Economic:
 - Business development and revitalization all hinge on functioning sanitary systems
 - Areas with failing on-site systems lose value as they cant be used to the fullest extent
 - Reduces pump-out needs/costs for undersized or failing commercial septic systems
 - Regulatory compliance with USEPA, NYSDEC, and Suffolk County DHS

Background

- Prior Sewer Studies: The Town of East Hampton has commissioned studies in the past to evaluate the economic growth, environmental protection, and potential sewerage of the Montauk area. These include;
 - Wastewater Needs Analysis Report (2014)
 - Lake Montauk Watershed Protection Plan (2014)
 - Comprehensive Town-wide Wastewater Management Plan (2015)
 - Water Quality Improvement Plan (2016)
 - Downtown Montauk Wastewater Management Strategic Plan (2017)
 - Other Regional Studies including Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP) and Suffolk County Water Resources Plan
- All studies outline the need for better wastewater treatment throughout the Town with a focus on Montauk for a centralized system
 - Many of the existing onsite systems within commercial areas are not constructed in accordance with current standards and do not function properly
 - To move forward with investigating the feasibility and implementation of a municipal wastewater treatment facility for the Montauk Area, the next step is to prepare a Map & Plan for a wastewater management district

Engineer Selection for District Map & Plan

- Following completed studies, Town issued RFP 2/13/2020 postponed to 9/24/2020 (Covid) to hire an engineering firm to prepare a map and plan for a wastewater management district for Downtown Montauk
 - Downtown Montauk is Phase 1 of a multi-phase project with future expansion to other areas
- Scope of Services;
 - Confirm the limits of the wastewater treatment system and establish district boundary
 - Confirm and determine design flows
 - Determine type/layout of treatment system
 - Identification of potential grant funding sources
- H2M Architects & Engineers selected via resolution on 11/20/2020
 - Highest evaluation score, most extensive and impressive experience, skilled team of engineers and planners, best candidate to assist the Town

Potential District Service Areas and Treatment Sites Considered



WWT Siting Concerns and Feasibility

- Consideration of treatment site locations
 - Montauk Manor Expansion
 - TOEH Landfill
 - NYS ROW near West Lake/Montauk Highway
 - Water Re-use @ Montauk Downs Golf Course
 - Montauk Railroad Station Area
- Limitations include;
 - Available area or usable space
 - Presence of underground structures/utilities
 - Depth to groundwater
 - Proximity to residential properties
 - Distance from proposed sewer service area
 - Property ownership
- Existing options exhausted; proposed alternative is land swap with Suffolk County

Requirements for Land Swap

- Broad Public Support
- Secure local sponsors in the NYS Assembly and Senate
- Suffolk County Park Trustees Approval
- Home Rule Message SC Executive
- Suffolk County Legislature Approval
- Support requested from
 - Downtown Montauk Wastewater Committee
 - Montauk Citizens Advisory Committee
 - Concerned Citizens of Montauk
 - Montauk Chamber of Commerce
 - Montauk Village Association
 - Montauk Fire Department
 - Boatmen and Captains Association
 - East Hampton Town Trustees
 - Ditch Plain Association

Alternative Site

- East of Montauk Landfill



Future Public Engagement and Communication

- DTM Wastewater Committee
 - Made up of Montauk business owners, residents, non-profit representatives to advise the Town throughout the process
- Montauk CAC and community group update meetings
- Public outreach to business owners and residents
 - Educate on the need for wastewater improvements, how changes impact Montauk
- Town Board Meetings for development of Map & Plan
 - To be presented by DTM WW committee, H2M Engineers and Town Staff
- Formal Education and Outreach Plan to be determined in next steps

Questions?